SMUD Value of Solar + Storage Technical Working Group: Notes from Meeting #1

These notes summarize the action items, meeting highlights, and attendees to the October 18 meeting of SMUD’s Value of Solar + Storage Technical Working Group. Gridworks served as facilitator and prepared these notes.

Action Items:

- SMUD and Gridworks will coordinate with Tesla on how to prepare for meeting on avoided transmission and distribution value.
- SMUD will request a presentation from CAISO to support the group’s consideration of avoided capacity and transmission value.
- SMUD and Gridworks will coordinate presenters for Meeting #3 on the value of avoided generation capacity and energy.
- SMUD will respond to requests for pilot results and data from Rick Codina.

Background:
SMUD’s Value of Solar + Storage Technical Working Group aims to engage the solar and storage industry, energy field experts, UC Davis economists, stakeholders and the community to provide input on the components of a study on the value of solar and solar-plus-storage. SMUD will host this engagement between October 2019 and January 2020.

This meeting included the participants listed below and was hosted at SMUD’s headquarters.

Meeting Highlights:

- The meeting began with a presentation by Jennifer Davidson (SMUD, Chief Financial Officer). Ms. Davidson provided an overview of the initiative’s process and expected deliverables. Ms. Davidson’s presentation is available here: https://www.smud.org/nem
- The meeting facilitator led participants through a focused conversation on the goals of the initiative. Each participant put forward their priority goals for the initiative. The following five goals were highlighted by the group:
  - The Initiative will identify clear value of solar-storage categories and embrace innovative approaches to recognizing those values. This valuation will be done with an open process that will serve as an example beyond SMUD’s territory.
  - The Initiative will support equity for SMUD customers and promote affordable service for low income customers.
The Initiative will balance the views and needs of the community and customers.

The Initiative will pursue carbon reduction at the best value for SMUD customers.

The Initiative will support a sustainable business model for SMUD.

Eric Poff provided an overview of the Technical Working Group’s meeting agendas, as well as SMUD’s electrical system and approach to cost recovery. Mr. Poff’s slides are available here https://www.smud.org/nem. High-level feedback on Mr. Poff’s presentation included:

- SMUD should consider adding a representative(s) of large commercial and industrial customer owned solar.
- Participants discussed the merits of spending meeting time on SMUD presentations on the value of solar versus non-SMUD presentations. The group agreed hearing from SMUD is worthwhile, balanced by alternative perspectives from beyond SMUD.
- Participants suggested the following steps be taken to build on SMUD’s planned agenda:
  - Work off-line with Tesla to review recent approaches to T&D valuation to ensure this process benefits from the latest improvements.
  - Request a presentation from CAISO.
  - Requests results of recent SMUD pilots and load shapes for participant edification.

Participants in Attendance:

- Al Rich, ACR Solar
- Alex J. Morris, California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA)
- Alex Jackson, NRDC
- Ben Finkelor, University of California (UC) - Davis
- Damon Franz, Tesla
- Dan Noran, Canadian Solar
- Dave Rapson, UC Davis
- David Wright – 350 Sacramento
- Eric Poff, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- Jan Smutny-Jones, Independent Energy Producers Association (IEPA)
- John Briggs (Customer)
- Patrick Mealoy (Customer)
- Rick Codina (Customer)
- Joshua Brister, Sunrun
- Lee Miller (Customer)
- Luis Sanchez, Community Resource Project
- Matthew Tisdale, Gridworks (Facilitator)
- Ben Davis, California Solar & Storage Association (CalSSA)
- Steve Campbell, GRID Alternatives
● Justin Scott, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
● Alcides Hernandez, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
● Olof Bystrom, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
● Kim Bates, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
● Obadiah Bartholomy, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
● James Frasher, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)